

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Kindly amend the paragraph beginning at page 24, line 32, of the English language specification as follows:

The foreign genes to be carried by viral vectors of the present invention are not particularly limited, and may encode natural proteins including hormones, cytokines, growth factors, receptors, intracellular signaling molecules, enzymes, and peptides. Such proteins include secretory proteins, membrane proteins, cytoplasmic proteins, and nuclear proteins. The foreign genes may also encode artificial proteins including fusion proteins, such as chimeric toxins; dominant-negative proteins (including soluble receptor molecules and dominant-negative membrane-bound receptors); truncated cell-adhesion molecules; and cell surface molecules. Proteins to which a secretory signal, membrane-targeting signal, or nuclear localization signal has been added are also included. The function of a particular gene can be suppressed by introducing and expressing a foreign gene such as an antisense RNA molecule, or RNA-cleaving ribozyme, siRNA (small interfering RNAs), or such. The foreign gene may also be a marker gene used to evaluate the efficiency of gene introduction, expression stability, or such. ~~Such proteins include secretory proteins, membrane proteins, cytoplasmic proteins, and nuclear proteins. Artificial proteins include fusion proteins such as chimeric toxins; dominant-negative proteins (including soluble receptor molecules and dominant-negative membrane-bound receptors); truncated~~

cell adhesion molecules; cell surface molecules; and antibody fragments. Proteins to which a secretory signal, membrane targeting signal, or nuclear localization signal has been added are also included. The function of a particular gene can be suppressed by introducing and expressing a foreign gene that encodes an antisense RNA molecule, RNA cleaving ribozyme, siRNA (small interfering RNAs), or such.